

# Patrick O'Neal receives Eagle Scout award

Boy Scout Troop 82 of Duxbury presented the highest award in Boy Scouting, the Eagle Scout Award, to Patrick O'Neal at an Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony held at the Duxbury Senior Center. Family and friends gathered to celebrate and recognize Patrick for his commitment to the Scouting program and for his achievement of this special award. David Shumway, former Cubmaster of Pack 1776 and an Eagle Scout, was the master of ceremonies.

A special highlight of the ceremony was an address to the audience by Tom O'Brien, Plymouth County Treasurer, former Massachusetts State Representative, and Eagle Scout. Mr. O'Brien also presented Patrick with citations from the State House of Representatives, the State Senate, and a letter from Governor Deval Patrick, paying tribute to his accomplishment.

O'Neal joined Troop 82 in 2003 and, over the following five years, continued to



David Shumway, Patrick O'Neal and Webelo Scout Michael O'Neal enjoy the reception.

participate and expand his activities, from camping trips to summer camps, and held various leadership positions within the Troop. Part of the requirements for earning his award was to complete an Eagle Project. He designed and constructed a footbridge for a stream crossing in the Lansing Bennett Town Forest in Duxbury.

He also created and hung wooden signs, with hand-burned lettering, marking several trail head access points from the road. In addition, existing trail markers on trees were repainted throughout the forest. This project was very much in keeping with Patrick's interest in the outdoors and in service to benefit others in the community.

At the closing of the ceremony

O'Neal addressed the audience. "Scouting has given my life so much, but most of all it has really developed me as a person," he said. "With every challenge I faced came encouragement to find the solution and work towards success." He continued by acknowledging the important roles of support and leadership from many individuals, including Scoutmaster Mike Gillis and his parents, Jenny and Greg O'Neal. He also noted the importance of meeting Tom O'Brien many years earlier at another Scout's Eagle Ceremony.

"Ever since I met you at an Eagle Scout ceremony very early in my scouting career you have inspired me," he said. "I wanted to reach the rank that the young man that day had. I wanted the next time I shook your hand to be as an Eagle Scout. So I'd just like to thank you for your inspiration that day and for being here for my ceremony today." Congratulations to Patrick O'Neal for joining the ranks of Eagle Scouts.



Eagle Scout Patrick O'Neal reaffirms his allegiance to the Scout Oath.